



**GOVERNOR'S  
COMMISSION ON  
SUICIDE PREVENTION**  

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**MARYLAND**

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention Meeting  
July 15, 2020 1:00pm-3:00pm

Commission Members on Phone

Robert Anderson	Department of Juvenile Services
Edward Bartlinski	Police, Local Corrections, or Fire and Rescue
Lynda Bonieskie	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Dana Burl	Department of Veterans Affairs
Amanda Celentano	Department of Aging
Janel Cabbage (Chair)	Behavioral Health Administration
Johanna Dolan	Substance Use Recovery Community
Christina Drushel-Williams	Governor's Office for Children
The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt	Member of the Maryland Senate
Monica Guerrero Vazquez	Hispanic/Latino Community
Russell Himmelberger	Active/Former Member of the Armed Forces
Kevin Johnson	Faith Community
Amy Kulp	Suicide Prevention Group
Jennilyn Landbeck	Family Member
Georgette Lavetsky	Deputy Secretary Public Health
The Honorable Eric Luedtke	Member of the House of Delegates
Cynthia Macri	Asian American/Pacific Islander Community
Lynne Muller	Maryland State Department of Education
William Powell	National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide
Dustin Richardson	American Indian Community
Kirsten Robb-McGrath	Department of Disabilities
Maura J. Rossman	Local Health Officer
Dana Sauro	Young Adult
Susan Schwarten	Survivor of a Suicide Attempt
Haley Taylor	Maryland Addictions Directors Council
Jennifer Treger	Mental Health Association of Maryland
Holly Wilcox (Vice Chair)	Academic Community

Workgroup Lead

Lanny Berman                      Suicide Fatality Review Workgroup

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff

Natalie Miller	Behavioral Health Administration
Indu Radhakrishnan	Behavioral Health Administration



### **Welcome and Introductions**

Commission Chair Cabbage welcomed all attendees to the Commission meeting. Commissioners introduced themselves.

### **Approval of May 20, 2020 Minutes**

No corrections were made to the minutes. Minutes were approved.

### **Discussion of Commission Vision and Purpose:**

The Commission discussed creating a vision and purpose for the commission in order to track progress. The Commissioners brainstormed ideas for a vision and commented on how the commission is meeting its goals. Several Commissioners identified a disconnect with knowing each other and the communities each Commissioner represents, it was decided that adding a meeting to the calendar to focus on fostering connection between Commissioners. The additional meeting scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> at 1-3 pm. A spreadsheet of the ideas will be shared with Commissioners for additional comments.

### **Discussion of Local Jurisdictions**

Commissioners Kulp and Treger led the discussion of collaboration efforts with local suicide coalitions. There has been one meeting with Carroll County, Washington County, Harford County, and Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Coalition leads and will have ongoing quarterly meetings with the county suicide coalition. The commission plans to gather information of county initiatives, the barriers and needs of the counties in order to provide needed support. The Commissioners discussed the benefits and barriers to this approach. It was recommended that the Commission also connects with the Local Management Boards, Local professional boards and the Midshore Collaborative.

### **Suicide Prevention Month**

Commissioner Cabbage announced that BHA was creating a Suicide Prevention Month Toolkit and requesting suicide prevention month proclamations from counties that are allowing proclamations currently. Commissioner Himmelberger discussed the difficulties with planning activities for September with COVID-19 and budget constraints. It was recommended that other organizations be reached out to such as AFSP who conducts walks every year. Commissioners Macri and Guerrero Vazquez discussed the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate resources and materials for community populations.

### **Workgroup Updates:**



Commissioners Kulp and Treger provided updates on the joint meetings of the training and lethal means workgroups. The joint workgroups decided to collaborate to achieve relevant goals on providing training to Behavioral Health Professionals and PCP's on suicide prevention and access to lethal means through the promotion of CALM and ERPO trainings. The workgroups have started connecting with local suicide coalitions to collect qualitative data on county suicide prevention initiatives. The next steps for the workgroup are to develop a questionnaire to conduct individual meetings with the county suicide coalitions to learn more about their initiatives and barrier, and then develop a presentation of the data collected.

#### **Data Workgroup Updates:**

The Data Workgroup provided updates on its focus to improving the reporting of race/ethnicity for Native American suicides, which are often coded as another race or ethnicity. The work group has a schedule in place to routinely share corrected race/ethnicity data available from death certificates. The workgroup has been able to engage with tribal groups to learn about their methodologies for coding race and ethnicity. The plans to reach out to data providers to learn about existing methodologies for determining race/ethnicity has been put on hold due to COVID-19. The Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal has been updated to include a health topic page on suicide. The plans to include geo-mapping information on suicide incidents is moving forward with an initial code written. The Morbidity Data Products have been put on hold as the ICD-10 code for non-fatal intentional self-harm is being validated under CDC guidance (anticipated completion in 2021). The workgroup is in the process of creating a 1 pager with information from the 2017 data from Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS). The impact of COVID-19 on suicides was briefly discussed as data is still being collected, although suicide deaths were lower between March and May 2020 compared to 2019.

#### **Action Items:**

The State Plan is due on December 1<sup>st</sup>, with internal review necessary prior. Commissioners are to review State plan and share comments with Natalie who will provide a shared google sheet for comments. The Commissioners are to review and add comments to the list of the Commission's vision and purpose. Commissioners were encouraged to sign up for workgroups: Jen Treger, Amy Kulp and Georgette Lavetsky are leads to contact.

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm.**

**The next Commission meeting will be held on September 16, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.**